

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

For Release October 4, 1970

Carroll 343-5634

AGREEMENT ANNOUNCED FOR SUSQUEHANNA SHAD

The State-Federal Advisory Committee for Susquehanna River Shad Studies and five power companies operating dams on the lower Susquehanna River today announced the signing of an agreement to provide for further steps to restore American shad to the river above the dams.

The Susquehanna, one of the great rivers of the Atlantic seaboard, drains a substantial part of New York State and about half of Pennsylvania before passing through a short stretch of Maryland and emptying into Chesapeake Bay.

Before the dams were built, migratory fishes in great numbers came up from the sea, where they had spent part of their lives. They would spend another part in the broad reaches of the Susquehanna. Construction of dams 40 years ago severed the link between the river and the sea.

Key feature of the agreement is development and construction of a \$500,000 fish collection facility at Conowingo Dam in Maryland, near the mouth of the river, by Philadelphia Electric Power Company and Susquehanna Power Company. It would be designed to attract American shad which have reached that location via Chesapeake Bay. Construction will begin immediately; the plant is expected to be in operation by May 1971, in time for the next season of shad run.

Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, Safe Harbor Water Power Corporation, and Metropolitan Edison Company will spend an estimated \$250,000 over five years in acquiring and planting at least 50 million fertilized American shad eggs in the Susquehanna River or tributaries above Conowingo.

The advisory committee consists of representatives of Maryland Fish and Wildlife Administration, Pennsylvania Fish Commission, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Interior Department's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Chairman of the committee is Assistant Director James T. McBroom of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

The group negotiated with the companies for several months in developing the agreement. The committee will monitor the results of the program to determine if further actions, including construction of fishways, are needed.

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel commended the power companies and the committee on the agreement.

"This action represents an outstanding and unusual example of cooperation among State agencies, private power companies, and the Federal Government in conservation and development of our fishery resources," Secretary Hickel said.

The agreement is subject to a decision by the Federal Power Commission that the cost to power companies involved can be classified as operating expenses.

x x x